

Revelation 21:1-8 “Our Perfect Inheritance”

(Sunday Morning: September 6, 2026)

Intro/Context:

- a. Each of the Seven Letters that we studied in Revelation 2-3 began with a picture of Christ and each one ended with a promise...
 - All the promises made in those seven letters find their culmination here... in Revelation 21...
 - This is the final destination... the ultimate promise, the eternal inheritance from God to His people... those who conquer, who overcome
- b. So as we read already this morning from Colossians... I want us to set our minds on things above this morning... To be amazed by what God has in store for your eternal future... to be in awe of the glory of the inheritance that God has for those who are in Christ!
 - But beyond that... I want us to consider how the truths of our eternal future ought to impact our current journey of life on earth now...
 - Those who are sure of the glory and reality of their eternal future are fueled by that to live a life of freedom and sacrifice for Christ and His Kingdom now..
 - So let's spend some time together this morning looking at six realities of the Christian's future inheritance...

M.I. “Those who conquer in Christ are transformed by the promise of a perfect eternity with God.”

1. God's Perfect Creation

- a. As God's eyes are opened to this Revelation in v.1, John says “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away and the sea was no more.”
 - And what I want us to notice at first is that John describes what he sees four times with the word “New”...
 - I want us to imagine for a moment the glory of newness that we find in our everyday lives...
 - This word that John uses brings with it the idea of something fresh, something previously unknown...
 - But when you place this word, this concept of newness, into the hands of God, what we see is that what he provides is perfection...
- b. Because it is God's creation... as it says in v.5 “I am making all things new”... when we hear the word “new” described as something God is doing... we can say that what John sees is “God's perfect creation!”

- How incredible will it be? How much greater and more glorious will it be than the greatest glory of the here and now?
- *Isaiah 65:17
- The New will outshine the old in such a way that after the old has passed away... it won't ever come to mind... you will not yearn for anything here because of the glory of the new!
- c. So what John sees is new, but let's not miss what it is... a new heaven and a new earth...
 - But how does John describe it? As a new earth... this picture of eternity is not a picture of some unknown, undesirable space, but it is a picture of a world redeemed and transformed and made new!
 - *Romans 8:18-22...
- d. What I want you to grasp from this is that God's perfect creation that he has in store for us is a real place... it is a perfect reality...
 - Eternity is not a make believe idea that makes us feel better when bad things happen... it isn't floating angels playing harps... it is resurrected people with resurrection bodies on a new and perfect earth...
 - But God's perfect creation is a promise from God of a perfect place that will be ours to enjoy forever...
 - What is seen is temporary, what is unseen eternal... where is your hope?

2. God's Perfect Community

- a. John's vision then moves to something else that is new... he said that he "saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband."
 - Now notice the language here... he calls this the new Jerusalem... Jerusalem is known in the Bible as the city of God... But he says the city is prepared like a bride adorned for her husband... the city is seen as a holy city... a set apart city... So what is John describing here?
 - I believe Revelation 21:9-11 helps...
 - Notice that when the angel describes what he is showing John, he doesn't just say the city is like a bride... he says the city is the bride..
- b. Scripture tells us that the bride of Christ is the church... so the new Jerusalem, the Holy City is the gathered, perfected people of God... It is God's perfect Community...
 - It is an adorned people... to be adorned means to make beautiful or appealing... what is it that Jesus finds beautiful?
 - Christ desires a pure, spotless, and holy church... this is the sanctifying work that the Spirit is doing now in the church... by the blood of Christ God has freed us from sin's penalty, and by the Spirit he is freeing us from

sin's power... but here we find the community of God's people freed from sin's presence...

- c. It is like a precious jewel, like a jasper stone as clear as crystal... why does it appear this way? Because it has been purified by and is arrayed with God's Glory...
- In this community there is no imperfections, no splotches, and no impurities...
 - I want us to consider two joyous realities of this. First, **this will be the community that your heart has always desired to be a part of...** this is a place where love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self control lived to their fullest...
 - What the church is, in part now, it will be perfectly then...
 - Secondly, **I want you to consider that this perfecting work will be done in you...** All of us feel the weight of hating our sin and yet still struggling to be free from it...
 - But God has made us a promise... **Romans 8:29-30**
 - What you are striving to become here on earth, you will be on the earth to come... no more temptation, no more sinful thoughts, no more hidden struggles... just an eternity with God's sinless people

3. God's Perfect Presence

- a. In v.3 John hears a voice... and the voice calls John's attention... It is like the voice is saying "check this out!" **"Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God."**
- In this verse we find the greatest promise of our inheritance... in our eternal home we will experience the perfect presence of God...
 - The greatest result of the fall, the deepest wound of sin is that it has separated man from his creator...
 - In Genesis 3 it says that God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden, and with that their intimacy with God was broken...
- b. As John looks he sees that God's dwelling is with man... this word for dwelling is "skene"... it means tent or tabernacle...
- The people of God have and do experience God's presence in part...
 - In the wilderness when God led Moses and the Israelites out of Egypt he was present in the Tabernacle... it says in John 1:14 that the Word became flesh and "Tabernacled" among us...
 - Even now Jesus promises in Matthew 28 that he is always with us... we know that the Holy Spirit dwells within us... but as Paul says in **2 Cor. 5:6**

- c. But what we have pictured here is an intimacy with the Lord that is perfect and undefiled... a relationship with God that is unlike anyone has ever experienced before...
 - In the Garden, before the fall, it says that Adam and Eve “heard God walking in the garden and spoke with him...”
 - It says in Exodus that Moses saw the glory of God pass by, but he could not see his face...
 - *Revelation 22:3-4
 - What Glory! That in our resurrected bodies, we will worship and serve the Lord... and he will be with us in perfect intimacy and perfect relationship... forever!
- d. I want you to consider for a moment... is that what makes eternity most appealing to you? Do you long for that type of intimacy with God?
 - The intimate relationship with God that we can have now, in part, we will have then in all its fullness! What makes heaven glorious is that God is there! Never again will He feel distant... he will always be with us, face to face...

4. God's Perfect Peace

- a. The presence of God with us in the new heavens and the new earth is the catalyst for our next two realities... God's perfect presence includes “God's perfect peace.”
 - V.4 “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things^[e] have passed away.”
 - I want us to notice the extension of God's intimacy with us that we see in this verse... He will wipe away every tear from their eyes...
 - This word here for “every” tear has the sense of God wiping away every individual tear... it isn't just that God wholesale wipes away every tear, but that he intimately rids you of all sorrow and sadness...
 - This is close, specific care for you...
- b. John goes on to say that “Death will be no more. There will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.”
 - Notice this phrase! The previous things have passed away... the things which cause us grief, sorrow, and pain have passed away... and the reason they are no more is because God has done away with their source...

- The source of all pain, sadness, grief, despair, heartache, and turmoil is the curse of sin... but Jesus has defeated that curse! Jesus, through his death and resurrection has defeated sin's curse...
- Revelation 22:3 says of this inheritance that "there will no longer be any curse!" There is Perfect Peace in eternity because sin isn't allowed!
- no more sad goodbyes in eternity... no cancer in eternity... no addiction in eternity... no anxiety in eternity... no more death in eternity...
- No more pain in eternity! Philippians 3:20-21 - ²¹ He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body
- Because God is there! Only perfect peace forever more!

5. God's Perfect Satisfaction

- In v.5 God reassures us that what we are reading is not too good to be true! Seated on his throne (a sign of work being completed) he reaffirms he is making all things new! He reminds us that His Word is faithful and true!
 - Then in v.6 he says "It is done!" What is done? Well he goes on to say that he is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end...
 - "I will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life."
 - I want us to notice that God's description of himself here is pointing to the fact that God is eternally and supernaturally other... he is the source of all things and His glory is the end of all things...
 - In Him is all that we need and desire! All that you desire, all you yearn for can be found in him and him alone...
- And so what he says is that in eternity he will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life... what does this mean? It means in eternity you will find full and complete satisfaction!
 - with Christ he will quench your thirst and you will find joy and fulfillment beyond all measure... and this finds its perfection in eternity!
 - Psalm 16:11
 - Only in God's presence... only at the right hand of the alpha and the omega... only from his source of life, will we be completely satisfied.

7. God's Perfect Salvation

- We end this section in v.7-8 with a contrast between two groups of people... on one side we those Paul describes as the conquering sons... it says those who conquer will inherit these things...
 - On the other side we have a list... it is a list of descriptors used as categories for people (substantival adjectives)... notice the language... the cowards, the detestables, the murderers, the sexually immoral, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars...

- And these people do not get to inherit these things... it says that there inheritance, their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur; which is the second death...
 - Let's be very clear here... not everyone gets to enjoy the inheritance of the new heavens and new earth... Heaven is exclusive...
- b. So let's ask this question: How do we become part of the conquering sons... this word for conquer is the same word given in every promise the seven letters... all the promises are given to those who conquer...
- So how do I become a conqueror... how do I move from my natural position as one whose share is the lake of fire and become one who is a conquering son? **There is only one way! It is to place your life and hope completely in the one true son and conqueror, Jesus Christ...**
 - 1 John 5:4 **This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith.**
 - You see, what provides us victory, what makes us a conqueror, is not our works, our efforts, our ability... what makes us a conqueror is our faith..
- c. And this status that we have as conquerors is an eternal one...
- **Romans 8:35-39**
 - Our inheritance in the new heavens and the new earth is ours, not because of what we have done... but because of God's love for us seen in the Gospel of Jesus Christ! We are eternal conquerors because of God's Perfect Salvation!

"Death is only dreadful for those who live in dread and fear of it. Death is not wild and terrible, if only we can be still and hold fast to God's Word. Death is not bitter, if we have not become bitter ourselves. Death is grace, the greatest gift of grace that God gives to people who believe in him. Death is mild, death is sweet and gentle; it beckons to us with heavenly power, if only we realize that it is the gateway to our homeland, the tabernacle of joy, the everlasting kingdom of peace.

How do we know that dying is so dreadful? Who knows whether, in our human fear and anguish we are only shivering and shuddering at the most glorious, heavenly, blessed event in the world? Death is hell and night and cold, if it is not transformed by our faith. But that is just what is so marvelous, that we can transform death." - Dietrich Boenhoffer

"We're not merely looking forward to a restoration of what Eden once was. Instead, we're looking forward to the consummation of all that Eden was intended to be. Jesus, the true Adam, our glorious Bridegroom, the Seed who crushed the serpent's head ([Genesis 3:15](#)), will not fail to lead us into all that God is preparing for us — a home even better than Eden." - Nancy Guthrie